

EXPLORE WELLINGTON

NORTHERN WALKWAY

Discover Wellington's Town Belt, reserves and walkways



6

NORTHERN WALKWAY, VIA JOHNSONVILLE AND KHANDALLAH PARKS, TE AHUMAIRANGI HILL AND THE BOTANIC GARDEN

Absolutely Positively Wellington City Council
Me Heke Ki Pōneke

EXPLORE WELLINGTON NORTHERN WALKWAY

Where: from Johnsonville through the Town Belt and several parks to Kelburn

Highlights: spectacular 360 degree views of the city, harbour, mountain ranges and the sea, abandoned tunnels, the city's oldest reserve

Distance: 16km – it takes at least four hours to complete, but can be done in stages

Difficulty: steep in some places, but not difficult overall

Starting point: end of Truscott Avenue in Johnsonville or top of the Cable Car in Upland Road, Kelburn

How to get there: (northern end) Johnsonville line train from Wellington to Raroa Station; walk 1.6km following the map's directions to Truscott Avenue; car parking available at the end of Truscott Avenue (southern end) Cable Car from Lambton Quay to Upland Road; limited car parking in Upland Road

Options: (to walk shorter sections) take a No 14 Wilton bus to Weld Street – to the northern end of Te Ahumairangi Hill section of the walk and the southern end of the Trelissick Park section, or take train to Simla Crescent station and join the walk there.

For bus and train timetables see metlink.co.nz

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

WEAR STURDY WALKING SHOES – SOME OF THE TRACKS CAN BE ROUGH UNDERFOOT.

Take warm, waterproof clothing – tracks can be exposed and the weather can change quickly.

Take ALL your rubbish home.

KEEP TO THE MARKED TRACKS.

No camping. No fires. No firearms.

Take water and food.

You may cross private land or farmland – please respect property.

DO NOT DISTURB STOCK.

Dogs must be kept on a lead and are banned from the section of track around the Mt Kaukau TV mast.

PLEASE LEAVE FARM GATES AS YOU FIND THEM.

MOST OF THE NORTHERN WALKWAY IS CLOSED TO MOUNTAIN BIKERS – FOR INFORMATION ABOUT BIKE TRACKS, SEE THE COUNCIL'S WEBSITE [WELLINGTON.GOV.T.NZ](http://WELLINGTON.GOVT.NZ) (SEARCH 'MOUNTAIN BIKING').

EXPLORE WELLINGTON

This is one of six Explore Wellington brochures featuring major tracks and walkways in Wellington. Pick up one of the other five brochures – and keep exploring:

1. **Te Kopahou Reserve, Wright's Hill and Zealandia wildlife sanctuary** – explore the 600 hectare reserve, the Second World War gun emplacements of Wright's Hill and Zealandia, the city's safe haven for endangered wildlife.
2. **Eastern Walkway** – the 2.5km track extends along the southern end of Miramar Peninsula.
3. **Southern Walkway** – the track runs for 11km along the Town Belt between Oriental Bay and Island Bay.
4. **Skyline Track** – the track runs north-south along the ridge between old Coach Road in Johnsonville and Makara Saddle in Karori.
5. **City to Sea Walkway** – the walkway runs from Bolton Memorial Park in the central city through the green belt to Shorland Park in Island Bay.

Brochures are available from the I-Site visitor information centre on Wakefield Street, they are downloadable from our website Wellington.govt.nz (search 'services' and 'walkways'), or you can phone 499 4444 for a brochure or to speak to a park ranger.

TE ARAROA – THE LONG PATHWAY



Parts of the Northern Walkway and Skyline Track merge with Te Araroa – the Long Pathway. Te Araroa is a foot trail stretching from Cape Reinga in the North of New Zealand to Bluff in the South.

Te Araroa is one of the world's longest walking trails. Hundreds of volunteers have helped create the continuous 3000 kilometre-long route.

1. The Wellington sector of the walk starts south of Colonial Knob, leading into Spicer Forest, Ohariu Valley Road, Rifle Range Road and then Old Coach Road, where it joins the Northern Walkway to Mt Kaukau.
2. From Mt Kaukau it follows the Skyline Track to Bell's Track and back on to the Northern Walkway in Ngaio.
3. Te Araroa then follows the Northern Walkway through Trelissick Park, Te Ahumairangi Hill and Wellington Botanic Garden to the Cable Car.
4. Walkers can then join the City to Sea Walkway to the south coast at Island Bay.

[See \[teararoa.org.nz\]\(http://teararoa.org.nz\)](http://teararoa.org.nz)

1 | Start

From the end of Truscott Avenue in Johnsonville Park, follow the orange directional signs up the hill to the first of two tunnels.



2 | Johnsonville Reservoir

The tunnel was cut through solid rock to accommodate the now disused outlet pipe from the reservoir. In 1910 the Johnsonville Town Board purchased land on the northern and eastern slopes of Mt Kaukau to build a high-pressure water supply. Water was pumped up from a dam in the Ohariu Valley to the reservoir, built 314 metres above sea

level. It flowed under considerable pressure to the township below.

The walkway then winds its way up to Mt Kaukau.

3 | BCL TV Transmitter

Take the time to stop along the way and enjoy the stunning views. The 122m BCL TV transmitter and surrounding area are privately owned.

Climb onto the viewing platform (430 metres altitude) for incredible 360° views. You'll experience spectacular views of the city, Wellington Harbour, the Rimutaka and Tararua ranges, Porirua Basin, and the Tasman Sea. On a clear day, you can see the snow-capped Mt Tapuae-o-uenuku in the inland Kaikoura range.

The walkway starts its descent from Mt Kaukau. There are various tracks that lead off to the left down to the Khandallah Park main picnic area, the children's play area and to Khandallah Pool.

First designated as a domain in 1909, Khandallah Park is one of New Zealand's oldest. It has more than 60 hectares of native bush with nine kilometres of walking tracks winding through dense bush and passing several lookouts.

4 | Khandallah Pool

The Khandallah Pool was opened in 1925 and retains many original features. A tea kiosk was built at the pool entrance in 1926, and served tea and ice creams until it was converted into a private house in 1973. It reopened as a café in 1999. Entry to the Khandallah Pool is free and the pool is open from December to March each year.

In the park, native plant cover is interspersed with exotic trees, particularly pines and macrocarpas. These trees are remnants of a plantation severely damaged in 1968 by the Wahine Storm. The walkway then descends through tawa and kohekohe forest onto Simla Crescent.



5 | Khandallah Telephone Exchange

A short walk along the road brings you to the Khandallah Telephone Exchange, 86–88 Khandallah Road. Designed by John Campbell in 1918 and completed in 1921, it was the first important public building of the post-war period. The building is a national treasure as the oldest automatic exchange in New Zealand to survive unaltered.



In 1889 John Campbell took up the position of draughtsman in charge of the design of government buildings throughout New Zealand and in 1909 he became the first person to hold the position of Government Architect.

Crossing Khandallah Road the walkway then continues into Cummings Park with a children's play area.



6 | Primordial Ancestors sculpture

In Cummings Park you can see the Primordial Ancestors sculpture, by Ian Prior. It was presented to the people of Ngaio by the Wellington Sculpture Trust in January 2000. Primordial Ancestors is a fertility shrine that pays homage to pregnant women, the birthing canal and the birth of life from stone. It represents the artist's relationship to stone and the extension of the earth as a living organism.

The walk continues along Waikowhai Street then heads down to cross Korimako Stream. From Trelissick Crescent, the track winds down through Trelissick Park and the Kaiwharawhara Stream in the Ngaio Gorge before coming out onto Hanover Street in Wadestown. Within the gorge, there are a wide variety of birds including piwakawaka (fantails), tauhou (silvereyes), tui and kererū (pigeons). Listen out for the distinctive calls of the ruru (morepork) and nakonako, (shining cuckoos).

There are also brown trout, red finned bullies, and common bullies in the Kaiwharawhara Stream.

Ngaio Gorge forms a natural access way between Wellington and the Coast, and was used a lot by Maori en route north through the Te Wharou Range to Wanganui and Taranaki. Maori also used the gorge as a source of food and for hunting. In 1841, the Maori track through the gorge was improved to form a pedestrian way between Kaiwharawhara and Khandallah, Old Porirua Road. This was followed in 1845 by the construction of a road up the gorge, which was commissioned by Captain Edward Daniell, whose 'Trelissick Farm', named after his estate in Cornwall, was at the head of the gorge.

Follow the map's directions through Wadestown up to Weld Street and Tinakori Hill. Then continue on through exotic and native forest. The ridge above the walkway is more open and here you can enjoy views over downtown Wellington, the harbour and eastern bays with a backdrop of the Rimutaka ranges.

Te Ahumairangi Hill (former Tinakori) has reverted to its original name. 'Ahu-Mairangi' means 'like a whirlwind'. The name provides a vivid description of the strong winds which can be experienced on the exposed upper ridge of the hills.

The name Tinakori was a misspelling of Tina Kahore meaning 'without dinner'. This name was given during the construction of Tinakori Road, as road makers worked all day without stopping for lunch. Originally, the hills were covered in dense native broadleaf podocarp forest and in 1840 they formed part of the Town Belt. Te Ahumairangi Hill is the northern most section of the Town Belt.



Gradually this land was cleared for various purposes such as hunting, grazing, quarrying and gold-mining. The second of the two tunnels on the walkway is found on a detour to the left of the walkway, above the Scout Hall. This tunnel is 40 metres long. It is not certain whether it was excavated for gold-mining or quarrying.

Revegetation of this part of the Town Belt in native plants is the long-term strategy of the Town Belt Management Plan. Native birds, such as piwakawaka, kotare (kingfishers), tui, riroriro (grey warblers) and tauhou thrive on Te Ahumairangi Hill.



7 | Westpac Stadium

Westpac Stadium was opened in 2000. The stadium is one of the biggest pre-cast construction jobs undertaken in New Zealand.

The project employed 250 construction staff on site and a further 230 off site. About 18,000 cubic metres (5000 truck loads) of concrete were used in total. Also used were 1590 tonnes of structural steel, 2700 tonnes of reinforcing steel and 250,000 concrete blocks.

Leaving Te Ahumairangi Hill the walkway winds down St Mary Street in historic Thorndon before crossing Glenmore Street into the Botanic Garden.



8 | Botanic Garden

Pick up a Walk 5. Explore Wellington, Discover the Heritage and Public Art in the City brochure to continue your walk through the Botanic Garden.

WALK 6 EXPLORE WELLINGTON NORTHERN WALKWAY

OTHER TRACKS AND WALKS

C Skyline Walk
This walkway runs north and south along the ridge between Mt Kaukau and Chartwell. It is four kilometres long and takes two hours at an easy pace.
Access points to the walkway are:

- through the car park at the end of Chartwell Drive,
- from Bells Track at the Awarua Street end,
- from Truscott Park in Johnsonville,
- from Sirsi Terrace in Broadmeadows,
- from the Northern Walkway at the top of Mt Kaukau.

D Bells Track
The track starts at the top of Awarua Street and joins a farm track up to a saddle on the ridge. This route originally provided access between farms in Ohariu Valley and the Ngaio Railway Station.

E Piwakawaka Track (Odell Reserve)
Access is from alongside 14 Punjab Street or from the Old Porirua Road near the entrance to the Harbour Lights subdivision. This track passes through regenerating bush and provides a convenient segment of a circular walk with the Bridle Track. The highest point, at the water tanks, provides the most spectacular views of the harbour and city from Ngaio.



RESERVES

- A Orleans Makererua Reserve**
There are open grassy spaces at the Orleans Street entrance and a bush route continues through to Makererua Street.
- B Heke Street Reserve**
Access between 45 and 47 Thatcher Crescent provides entry to this reserve. There are two tracks linking to Heke and Collingwood Streets, the latter providing an alternative route to bypass the Waikowhai Street section of the Northern Walkway.
- C Huntleigh Park reserve**
This is a Wellington City Council Reserve and an adjoining bush area administered by the Girl Guides Association. Access is from either alongside 29 Huntleigh Park Way or via the Girl Guides Centre in Silverstream Road in Crofton Downs. Tracks are marked with small coloured posts but some care is needed in several areas that are quite steep.
- D Trelissick Park**
This track has a sign-posted entry from a disused road loop near the bottom of Ngaio Gorge Road. A track runs up alongside Kaiwharawhara Stream to meet the Northern Walkway with the option to exit to Trelissick Crescent at two other points. An historic powder magazine built in 1879-80 and used for storing explosives during the Russian invasion scare of the 1880s.
- E Otari-Wilton's Bush**
This unique sanctuary is devoted to indigenous New Zealand plants. It has a range of tracks through forest, cultivated gardens, open spaces and picnic areas. Access is from Wilton Bush Road, Wilton Road or John Witton Drive. Further details are available from the Otari Information Centre/Te Marae O Tane, on Wilton Road.

KEY

- TOWN BELT /RESERVES
- NORTHERN WALKWAY
- SKYLINE WALK
- BELLS TRACK
- PIWAKAWAKA TRACK
- EXISTING TRACKS

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